Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A message distribution center comprising:

an SMTP protocol communication channel to receive a short message from a source of said short message;

a database having a plurality of subscriber queues accessed before delivery to a wireless carrier's subscriber message delivery network and each corresponding to a different subscriber in said wireless network, said short message being placed in at least one of said plurality of subscriber queues before delivery to said wireless carrier's subscriber message delivery network;

an assignment module to individually assign each of said plurality of subscriber queues a maximum number of short messages that said plurality of subscriber queues can store, said maximum number being determined according to delivery statistics; and

an automatic deletion module to automatically delete messages from said subscriber queues when said maximum number is exceed in order to make room in said database for other messages;

at least one of an RMI communication channel and an SMPP communication channel to communicate said queued short message to said wireless carrier's subscriber message delivery network.

2-3. (canceled)

4. (original) The message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

each of said plurality of subscriber queues operates in a first in-first out fashion.

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5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The message distribution center according to claim 1, wherein:

said wireless carrier's subscriber message delivery network is a wireless intelligent network (WIN).

7-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A method of message distribution between a source of a short message and a wireless network including an intended recipient of said short message, said method of message distribution comprising:

receiving said short message from said source of said short message utilizing an SMTP protocol communication channel;

placing said short message in at least one of a plurality of subscriber queues ~~of a subscriber database that are~~ accessed before delivery to a wireless carrier's subscriber message delivery network, said plurality of subscriber queues each corresponding to a different subscriber in said wireless carrier's network;

individually assigning each of said plurality of subscriber queues a maximum number of short messages that said plurality of subscriber queues can store<u>, said maximum number being determined according to delivery statistics</u>;

automatically deleting messages from said subscriber queues when said maximum number is exceed ~~in order to make room in said database for other messages~~;

communicating said short message to said wireless carrier's subscriber message delivery network utilizing at least one of an RMI communication channel and an SMPP communication channel.

18-19. (canceled)

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20. (previously presented) The method of message distribution according to claim 17, wherein:

each of said plurality of subscriber queues operates in a first in-first out fashion.

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented) The method of message distribution according to claim 17, wherein:

said wireless carrier's subscriber message delivery network is a wireless intelligent network (WIN).

23. (currently amended) An apparatus for message distribution between a source of a short message and a wireless network including an intended recipient of said short message, said apparatus for message distribution comprising:

means for receiving said short message from said source of said short message utilizing an SMTP protocol communication channel;

~~means for storing said short messages in a database that includes a plurality of subscriber queues;~~

means for placing said short message in at least one of a plurality of ~~said~~ subscriber queues accessed before delivery to a wireless carrier's subscriber message delivery network, said plurality of subscriber queues each corresponding to a different subscriber in said wireless carrier's subscriber message delivery network;

means for individually assigning each of said plurality of subscriber queues a maximum number of short messages that said plurality of said subscriber queues can store, said maximum number being determined according to delivery statistics; and

means for automatically deleting messages from said subscriber queues when said maximum number is exceed ~~in order to make room in said database for other messages~~;

means for communicating said short message to said wireless carrier's subscriber message delivery network utilizing at least one of an RMI communication channel and an SMPP communication channel.

24-25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented) The apparatus for message distribution according to claim 23, wherein:

each of said plurality of subscriber queues operates in a first in-first out fashion.

27. (previously presented) The apparatus for message distribution according to claim 23, further comprising:

placing a predetermined maximum number of short messages in each of said plurality of subscriber queues.

28. (previously presented) The apparatus for message distribution according to claim 23, wherein:

said wireless carrier's subscriber message delivery network is a wireless intelligent network (WIN).